

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN411
Module Title	Foundations of Veterinary Nursing Practice 3
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100532
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
FdSc Veterinary Nursing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	36 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	164 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to develop students' understanding of the endocrine and reproductive systems and their influence on patient health, breeding and long-term wellbeing. Students will explore key principles of genetics and immunology and consider their application in preventative health strategies within veterinary nursing practice.

The module further aims to strengthen professional nursing reasoning through examination of the nursing process and models that underpin evidence-based veterinary nursing care. Students will also be introduced to the principles of veterinary physiotherapy, recognising its

role in supporting inpatient care, rehabilitation and recovery within the professional scope of the veterinary nurse.

** Range of species in addition to cats and dogs - holders of veterinary nursing degrees should be competent in providing nursing care to animals that are commonly kept as pets in the UK. This will include rabbits, small mammals and appropriate species of reptiles and birds. In addition to the above animals, a level of basic knowledge and competence in the husbandry and nursing care of horses, endemic UK wildlife and exotic species not commonly seen in the UK*

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmarkstatement-veterinary-nursing>.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Describe the structure and function of the endocrine and reproductive systems and explain their role in patient health and breeding.
2	Identify principles of genetics and immunology and review their application in preventative health strategies.
3	Explain the nursing process and models and review how they support evidence-based veterinary nursing practice.
4	Explain the application of safe handling techniques and recognise behavioural indicators of welfare in veterinary patients.

RCVS Standards	Day One Competences (DOC)	Day One Skills (DOS)
Learning outcomes for this module are mapped to the following RCVS day one competences (DOC) and day one skills (DOS)	5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 35	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7, 2.9, 2.12, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.14

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1:

Students will complete an unseen in-class applied knowledge test consisting of multiple-choice, short-answer and scenario-based questions.

Assessment 2:

This assessment requires students to review two nursing care plans provided by the academic team and write an academic report. Students will discuss the nursing care interventions within each plan, demonstrating understanding of the nursing process and application of nursing models, taking into consideration safe handling techniques and behavioural indicators of welfare.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 2	In-class test	90 minutes	50%	N/A
2	3, 4	Written Assignment	1500 words	50%	N/A

Derogations

Students are required to pass all assessment elements with a minimum mark of 40% for all modules.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching on this module will be underpinned by the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) and will adopt a student-centred, practice-focused approach that supports the development of placement readiness, professional judgement and evidence-based veterinary nursing practice.

A range of learning and teaching methods will be utilised, including:

- Interactive lectures
- Seminars and workshops
- Scenario-based learning activities
- Guided communication activities and role-play,
- Directed academic skills sessions

Opportunities for formative learning and feedback will be embedded throughout the module to support skill development and prepare students for summative assessment and placement expectations, including communication role play / risk assessment activity / study skill activities (literature searches, peer review writing tasks). A range of modalities will be used by the tutor to provide feedback to students.

Learning and teaching will take place in classroom and simulated clinical environments where appropriate, enabling students to make clear connections between theory, professional behaviour and practice.

Welsh Elements

Welsh language and culture will be embedded within this module in line with the University's Welsh Language Standards and the needs of the veterinary nursing profession in Wales. Students will be encouraged to develop awareness of the Welsh language within professional and clinical contexts.

Opportunities will be provided for students to engage with basic Welsh terminology and phrases relevant to veterinary nursing practice, including simple greetings, client communication and professional interactions. Where appropriate, learning activities and examples will reflect bilingual practice within veterinary settings in Wales.

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, work placements and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Learning Outcome 1

- Structure and function of the endocrine and reproductive systems
- Hormonal regulation and feedback mechanisms
- Reproductive cycles, pregnancy, parturition and lactation (overview)
- Influence of endocrine and reproductive function on health, fertility and breeding
- Introduction to abnormal structure and function associated with disease

Learning Outcome 2

- Basic principles of genetics and patterns of inheritance (dominant, recessive, sex-linked)
- Genetic variation, mutation and hereditary disease
- Breed predispositions and genetic screening programmes (e.g. Kennel Club, BSAVA, ICC, GCCF)
- Principles of the immune system (innate and adaptive immunity)
- Antigens, antibodies and immune response
- Principles of vaccination, immune memory and vaccination protocols (WSAVA/BSAVA)

Learning Outcome 3

- Principles of the nursing process (assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation)
- Introduction to nursing models and their application in veterinary and human healthcare
- Care bundles and evidence-based veterinary nursing
- Clinical reasoning, professional judgement, documentation and reflective practice

Learning Outcome 4

- Principles of safe handling and restraint
- Species-appropriate handling techniques, equipment and PPE
- Low-stress handling approaches
- Recognition of behavioural indicators of stress, fear, pain and wellbeing
- Pain assessment and scoring
- Ethical considerations and risk assessment for patient and handler safety

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential reading:

Aspinall, V. and Cappello, M. (2024) *Introduction to veterinary anatomy and physiology*. 5th edn. Edinburgh: Elsevier.

Cooper, B., Turner, L. and Mullineaux, E. (2020) *BSAVA textbook of veterinary nursing*. 6th edn. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Other indicative reading:

Colville, T. and Bassert, J.M. (2015) *Clinical anatomy and physiology for veterinary technicians*. 3rd edn. Missouri: Elsevier.

Klein, B.G. (2019) *Cunningham's textbook of veterinary physiology*. 6th edn. Missouri: Elsevier.

Rendle, M. and Hinde, J. (eds.) (2022) *BSAVA manual of practical veterinary welfare*. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Rutland, S., Rutland, C. and El-Gendy, S.A.A. (2022) *Updates on veterinary anatomy and physiology*. London: IntechOpen.

Singh, B. (2016) *Saunders veterinary anatomy colouring book*. 2nd edn. St Louis: Elsevier.

Administrative Information

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